



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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2 FEBRUARY 1965

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1. South Vietnam

There seems to be much talk behind the scenes about forming a new government, but no signs of progress are yet visible. General Khanh's original idea of a mixed military and civilian group--similar to the old High Council in all but name--is apparently still the objective.

The Buddhists are demanding representation. The Catholics are avoiding any official identification with the council, and are generally pessimistic.

2. Cuba

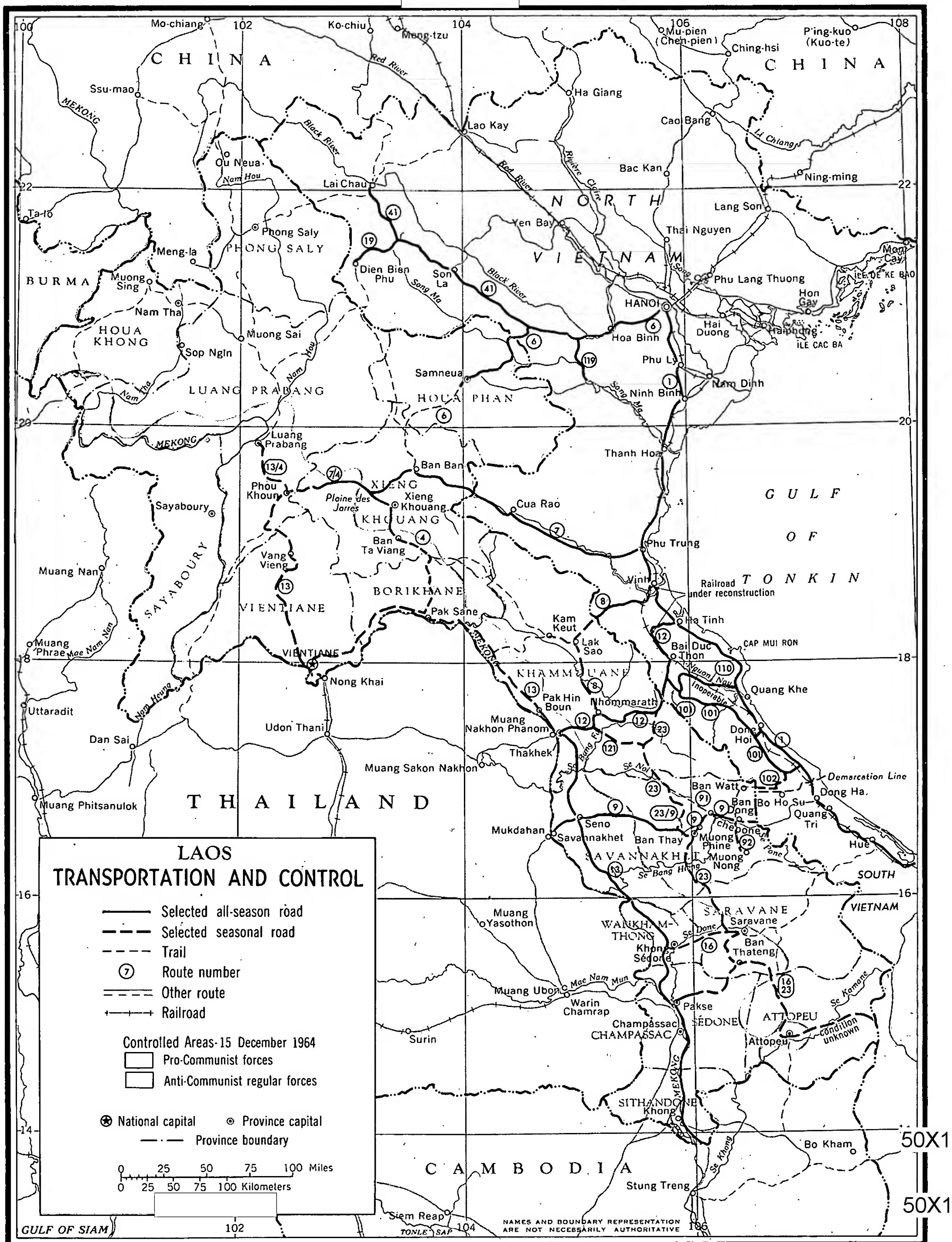
Che Guevara, who has been traveling in Africa, has turned up in Communist China. We suspect he is trying to smooth out difficulties growing out of a meeting of Latin American Communists in Havana last November at which the pro-Chinese elements criticized Havana's failure to condemn the pro-Soviets in the Latin American movement.

3. Brazil

President Castello Branco is thinking of postponing this year's country-wide gubernatorial elections. The idea would be to maintain stability until the presidential election due next year. The government, which is not popular, is sure to come under heavy fire if it decides to do this.

4. USSR

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5. Indonesia

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Small-scale Indonesian guerilla operations continue against mainland Malaysia and Borneo.

6. Laos

The situation remains confused. General Phoumi is being increasingly open in his efforts to put some life in the dissident rightist forces which on Sunday attempted a military takeover in Vientiane. He has been making frantic efforts to get reinforcements, without apparent success. A small Phoumi force approaching the city this morning ran into artillery fire, but otherwise no fighting has occurred.

Other opportunistic factions, including the police, seem to be biding their time in case Phoumi starts making some progress.

7. Cyprus

The Soviets have apparently told Makarios in the past few days that they will not support him if his policy is to achieve union with Greece, or if he precipitates Turkish intervention. This follows Gromyko's recent policy statement mentioning federation, the solution favored by the Turks. Both Athens and Nicosia have had a shock from these maneuvers. It is not yet clear how relations between the two will be affected and whether there is an opening for new negotiations.

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